

Park Point Small Area Plan



Public Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 5:30 pm

Lafayette Community Recreation Club



Agenda

- Opening Remarks

 - ▣ *Keith Hamre, Director, Planning and Construction Services*

- Presentation – *John Kelley, Project Planner*

 - Wayfinding

 - Transportation

 - Pedestrian/Bike Pathway

 - Zoning and Land Use

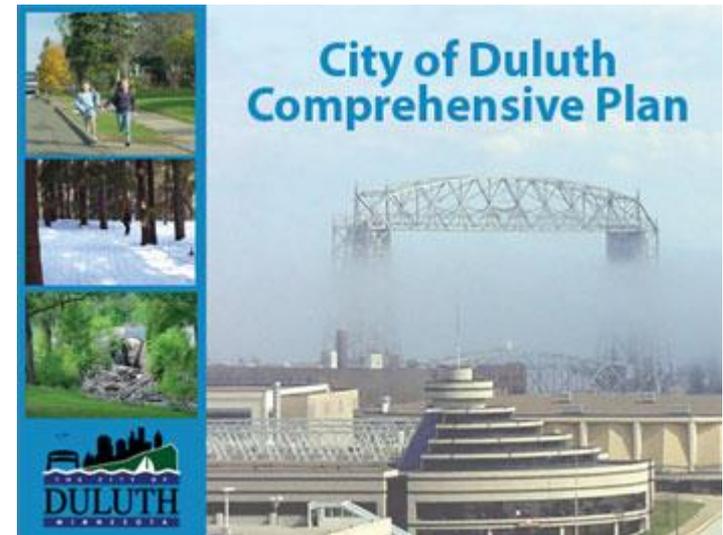
 - Infrastructure

- Questions

Comment sheets are available at sign-in table

Comprehensive Land Use Plan

- Unanimously adopted by City Council in 2006
- Policy guidance for how Duluth should grow and develop over next 20 years
 - ▣ Preservation & Protection
 - ▣ Infrastructure & Public Services
 - ▣ Urban Design
 - ▣ Economic Development
 - ▣ Parks and Recreation
 - ▣ Transportation
 - ▣ Development Process



Unified Development Chapter

- The Unified Development Chapter of the City of Duluth Legislative Code (UDC) is the new set of zoning regulations for the City of Duluth.
- The UDC was drafted to implement the City's 2006 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which is the community's vision for growth and development in Duluth over the next 20 years.

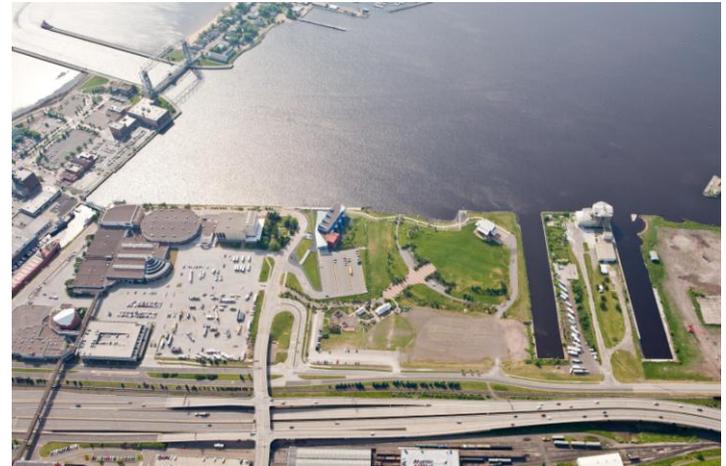
What is a Small Area Plan?

- Small area plan: developed for a clearly defined area and gives more detailed recommendations than would be provided in a comprehensive plan.

2009: Central Entrance – Miller Hill



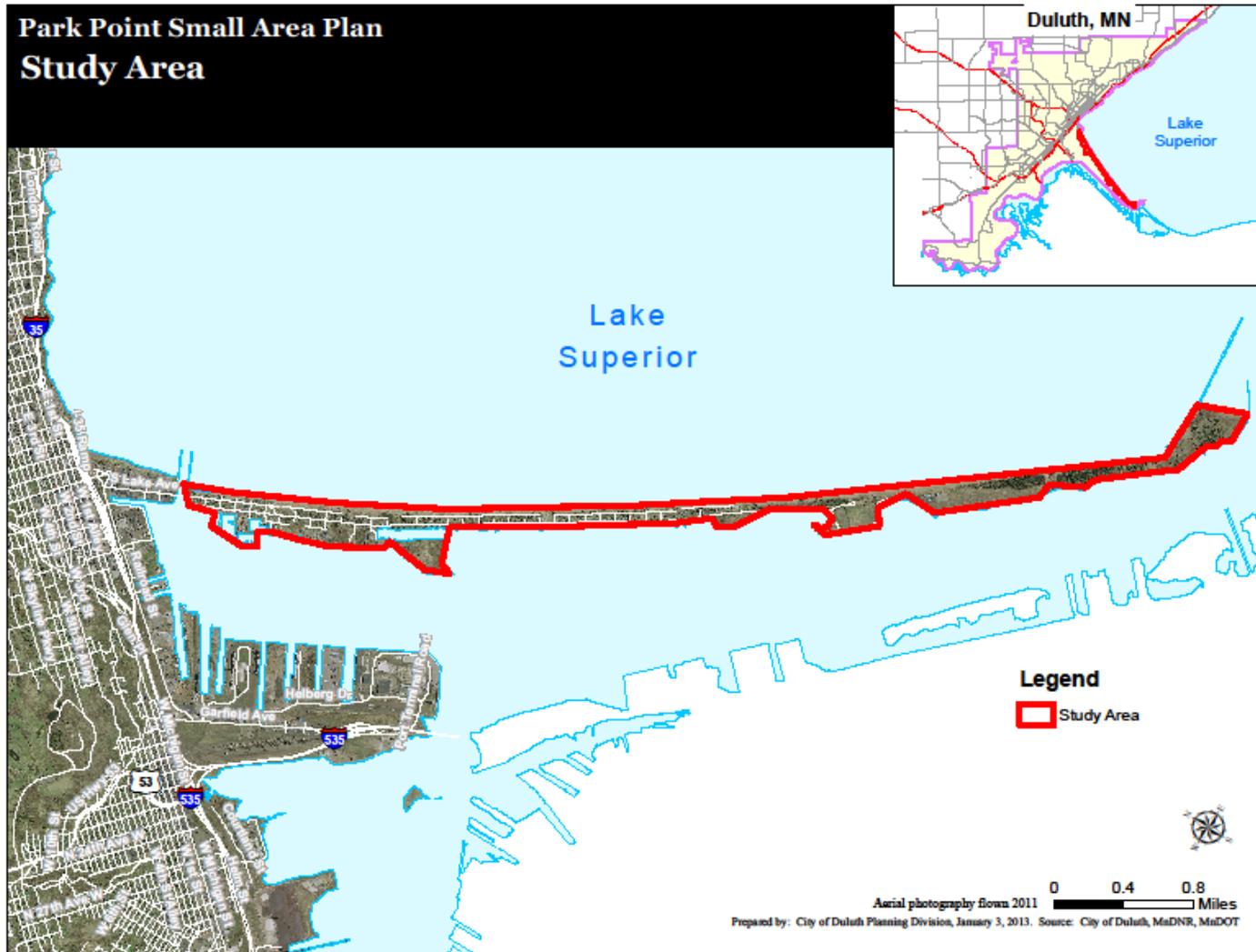
2010: Bayfront District



Purpose

- Recent planning and development activity on Park Point has raised a number of questions regarding changes to existing land use patterns and the character of the Park Point neighborhood.
- Plan Objectives:
 - ▣ To determine carrying capacity of the land in terms of infrastructure for future commercial and residential development opportunities.
 - ▣ To define public access/use of improved and unimproved rights-of-way (Street-Ends).
 - ▣ To improve wayfinding-signage for recreational, residential and commercial use.
 - ▣ To provide safe and convenient motorized and non-motorized transportation options throughout the study area.
 - ▣ To facilitate a park planning process for park improvements.

Study Area



Issues....

Wayfinding:

- Reasons to establish a wayfinding plan for the Park Point area:
 - Improves the quality of pedestrian, bicyclists, and vehicular modes of travel.
 - Allows for a safe user friendly approach to vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian access.
 - Provides direction and navigation public access points to beach, trail and natural areas.
 - Assist in mitigating trespass onto private property.



Ideas....

- ❑ Install bike route signs along Minnesota Avenue.
- ❑ Install an informational kiosk on north and/or south side of the lift bridge, primarily for ped/bike traffic and potentially a vehicular pull out.
- ❑ Install directional signage for bike and pedestrian wayfinding.
- ❑ Develop wayfinding map.
- ❑ Provide map to hotels and vacation rentals.



Issues....

Transportation:

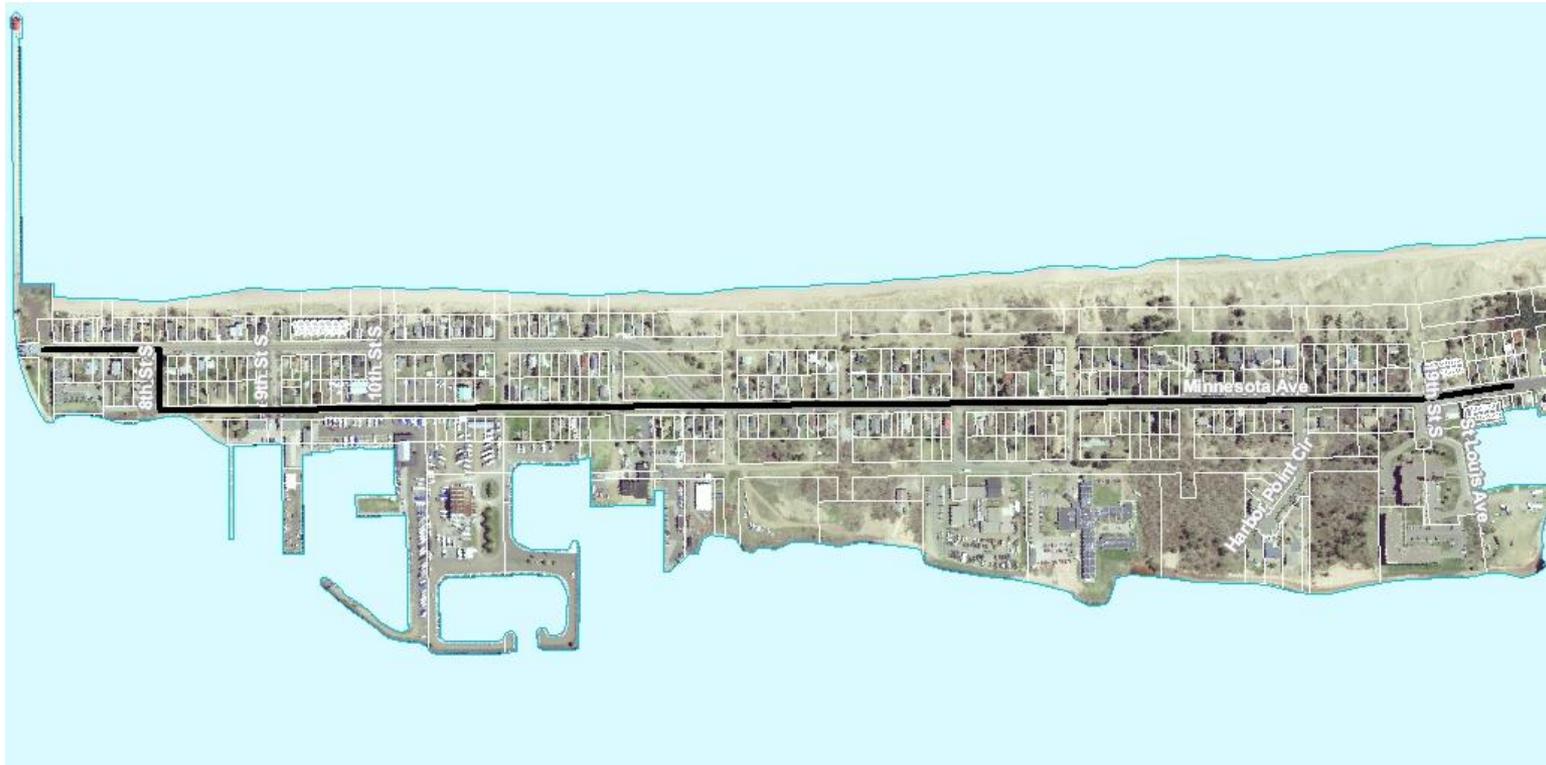
- Reasons to change the main traffic roadway on Park Point from South Lake Avenue onto Minnesota Avenue:
 - ▣ Minnesota Avenue from 8th to 13th Street has land uses more appropriate for heavier traffic.
 - ▣ Provides better access for proposed hotels and other commercial land uses.
 - ▣ Makes the dense neighborhood along Lake Ave S from 8th St to Franklin Park more livable.
 - ▣ Bike route can follow Lake Ave S, which will have less traffic.



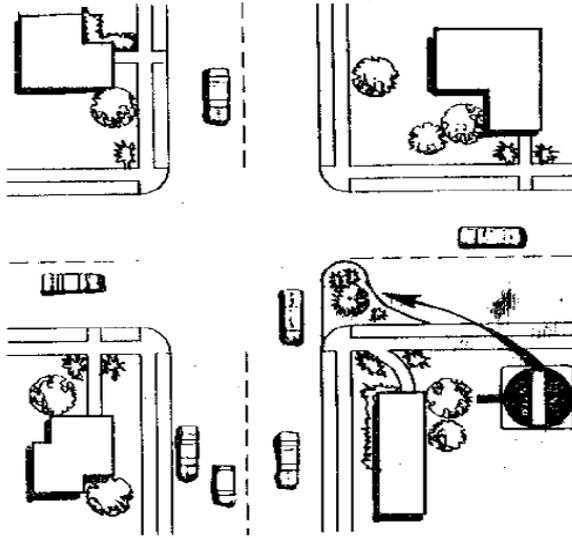
Ideas....

- Eliminate S-Curve at 13th Street
- Apply traffic calming treatments-changes in street alignment, installation of barriers, and other physical measures to reduce traffic speeds.
- Minnesota Avenue becomes two-way street from 8th Street to Airport.
- Install half-closures to prohibit vehicle right turns onto 9th, 10th or 11th Streets.
- Lake Avenue one-way from 13th Street to 8th, 9th, 10, or 11th Streets
- Reallocate the 44ft curb to curb space – location of driving lanes, parking lane, and bike lane(s).

Possible re-route....



Traffic Calming Treatments



Issues....

Recreational Pathways:

- Reasons to improve pedestrian and bicycle movement on Park Point:
 - ▣ Safety.
 - ▣ Provides transportation alternative by connecting residential, commercial and recreation areas.
 - ▣ Reduces the congestion and vehicular traffic that would otherwise be generated.

Ideas....

- Reclaim Franklin Square Park to its full potential. Safety is increased for users of the Tot Lot. It could provide improved access and parking for the park. Former diagonal road through park could be converted into bike/recreation trail.
- Minnesota Avenue 60-foot ROW: reallocate the 44ft curb to curb space – location of driving lanes, parking lane, and bike lane(s).
- Paint double striped lines for bike lanes
- Begin compiling annual bike and pedestrian counts.
- Improve St. Louis Avenue to allow for a bike/ped path.
- Implement recommendations from city-wide sidewalk study.

Concepts.....



Reconfigure 44ft of curb to curb- change lane striping by narrowing west side parking lane from 11 to 8ft, stripe a 4ft wide lane for bikes (unofficial) then two 11 ft driving lanes and a 10ft recreation lane on the east side. This configuration will provide more room for south bound bikes.

Here's an idea....



Issues

Zoning & Land Use:

- Reasons to amend Comprehensive Land Use Plan/Map and Unified Development Chapter for the area zoned Industrial-Waterfront (I-W):
 - ▣ Permitted uses in the current I-W zoning would not be compatible with existing land use and zoning.
 - ▣ Current zoning is not consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Future Land Use



Current Zoning



Ideas....

- A mix of commercial waterfront, recreation and residential use would complement existing land uses.
- Amend Comprehensive Land Use Plan-Future Land Use Map
- Rezone I-W zoned area to Park and Open Space (P-1), Mixed-Use Waterfront (MU-W) and Traditional-Residential (R-1).

Issues

Infrastructure (water & sewer):

- Reasons to replace and upgrade water & sewer infrastructure, and utility lines:
 - ▣ Protect and preserve water quality in Lake and Bay.
 - ▣ Aging infrastructure- water and sewer lines.

Ideas....



- Water and wastewater pipes and equipment replaced when feasible to provide for efficiency and to reduce the need for repair and maintenance.
- Seek grant opportunities for replacement/upgrade to water and sewer.
- Bury overhead utility lines when feasible to reduce the need for repair and maintenance, improve visual character of the area, remove utility clutter and provide more area for improvements in the right-of-way.

Next Steps

- Collect feedback and comments on ideas to draft recommendations
- Review comments and compile recommendations and implementation steps
- Second Public Meeting Tentative Date: Wednesday May 1, 2013
- Submit to Planning Commission
Timeline: May 2013
- Submit to City Council
Timeline: June/July

